

248001

12 AUG 1992

SDA 1043

BASS BASIN

REPORT TO GOVERNMENT

T/23P SEISMIC INTERPRETATION AND PERMIT EVALUATION

BY M. A. TRUPP

JULY 1992

Keywords: Firetail, Thornbill, Eastern View, T/14P, Bass, Yurongi, Dondu

The Shell Company of Australia Limited

TPR

OR\_0247

## SUMMARY

248002

Bass Basin permit T/23P was awarded to the Shell Company of Australia Limited (SCOA) on 22nd December, 1989. The permit is currently in Permit Year 3 and under the Modified Work Programme system, SCOA has the opportunity to renegotiate the terms of the Secondary Work Programme (Years 4-6) or it may withdraw at the end of Year 3 (21st December, 1992) providing the permit is in good standing.

This report is an assessment of the permit's prospectivity, based primarily upon new seismic evidence arising from the 1990 Shell BS90A survey. It is concluded that further exploration activity in T/23P is not justifiable. No drillable traps have been mapped. The Firetail Prospect and Thornbill Lead play concepts, proposed at the time of award of the permit, are no longer valid as the objective intervals are now thought to be unprospective.

On this basis, it is recommended that Shell relinquish T/23P before entering the drilling commitment year on 22nd December 1992. The permit would be relinquished in good standing with all of the Primary Work Programme commitments fulfilled.

**CONTENTS****SUMMARY****Contents****Figures List****Enclosures List**

- 1. INTRODUCTION**
- 2. REGIONAL GEOLOGY**
- 3. PLAY CONCEPTS**
- 4. SEISMIC INTERPRETATION**
  - 4.1 Seismic Data**
  - 4.2 Correlation**
  - 4.3 Depth Conversion**
  - 4.4 Structural Interpretation**
- 5. PROSPECTIVITY**
- 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 7. REFERENCES**

## FIGURES LIST

	Drawing No.
1. T/23P Permit Location Map	27752C
2. T/23P Tectonic Elements	27748C
3. Stratigraphy	26220
4. Bass Basin Tectonic Elements	24849
5. T/23P Seismic Coverage Map	27749C

## ENCLOSURES LIST

1. Shot Point Location Map	27764
2. Interpreted Seismic Line BS90A-23.	26192
3. Interpreted Seismic Line BS90A-33	27788
4. Upper Intra-Torquay Group Event Time Structure Map	27754
5. Lower Intra-Torquay Group Event Time Structure Map	27753
6. Top Demons Bluff Formation Time Structure Map	27755
7. Top Eastern View Group Time Structure Map	27751
8. Mid <i>M. diversus</i> Unconformity Time Structure Map	27757
9. Top Eastern View Group Depth Structure Map	27756
10. Mid <i>M. diversus</i> Unconformity Depth Structure Map	27750

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Bass Basin exploration permit T/23P was awarded to the Shell Company of Australia Limited (SCOA) (100%) on 22nd December, 1989. The permit lies in Bass Strait, some 250 km southeast of Melbourne (Fig. 1). T/23P was applied for in conjunction with a seismic farmin option to neighbouring T/14P (now vacant acreage) so as to secure the entire Bass High area, where the potential for a Kipper type play (Firetail Prospect, Fig. 2) was recognised. Potential development of alluvial fan sands along the downthrown southern margin of the Bass High represented a second possible play in T/23P (Thornbill Lead, Fig. 2).

The firm T/23P Work Programme requirement of 500 km seismic was fulfilled by the acquisition of the BS90A survey in 1990. The six year work programme is as follows:

<u>Year Ending</u>	<u>Minimum Work Requirements</u>	<u>Indicative Expenditure</u>	<u>Status</u>
21/12/90	400 km seismic	A\$400,000	Fulfilled
21/12/91	Office Studies	A\$100,000	Fulfilled
21/12/92	100 km seismic	A\$150,000	Fulfilled
-----Decision Point - Continue in Permit? -----			
21/12/93	Drill one well	A\$8,000,000	-----
21/12/94	Office Studies	A\$100,000	-----
21/12/95	100 km seismic	A\$150,000	-----

The permit is currently in Year 3 and under the Modified Work Programme system, SCOA has the opportunity to renegotiate the terms of the Secondary Work Programme (Years 4-6) or it may withdraw at the end of Year 3 (21st December, 1992) providing the permit is in good standing.

Interpretation and evaluation of the T/23P seismic data was deferred in favour of more pressing priorities in other exploration permits. However, with a significant permit decision point to be reached at the end of 1992, (i.e. to enter Year 4 incurring a drilling commitment) the prospectivity evaluation was commenced in early 1992. This report summarises the results of the evaluation.

## 2. REGIONAL GEOLOGY

The Bass Basin formed during rifting in the Early Cretaceous associated with the separation of southern Australia and Antarctica. During this time the Otway Group was deposited on a basement of Paleozoic metasediments and granites (Fig. 3). Break-up of the southern margin of Australia to the west of Tasmania occurred in the mid-Cretaceous. The Bass Basin continued to undergo extension and subsidence until at least the Early Eocene (mid *M. diversus*, Fig. 3). During this time the Lower and Middle Eastern View Group was deposited. These units consist of non-marine upper coastal plain, lower coastal plain, delta front and lacustrine sediments. Subsidence continued through the Eocene with the deposition of the Upper Eastern View Group. The Lower, Middle and Upper Eastern View Group are defined by unconformities which developed on the flanks of the basin in response to localised movement and associated volcanic activity.

The first significant marine influence seen in the basin occurred during the Middle - Late Eocene. This transgression deposited the shallow marine sands at the top of the Eastern View Group which are overlain by marine silts and clays of the Demons Bluff Formation. Post-Eocene sediment starvation resulted in the deposition of calcareous shales during the Oligocene and limestones from the Miocene to Recent.

The overall structural evolution of the Bass Basin is quite straightforward; extension followed by thermal sag associated with the successful separation of Australia and Antarctica continued from the earliest Cretaceous to the Eocene. Apart from mild inversion of the Cormorant and Pelican Troughs (Fig. 4), wrenching during the Eocene produced only slight changes to the basin morphology. The major Eocene and Miocene age anticlines seen in the Gippsland Basin and Torquay Sub-basin are not present in the Bass Basin.

## 3. PLAY CONCEPTS

The primary objective in the Bass Basin is the transgressive sandstone at the top of the Eastern View Group sealed beneath the Demons Bluff Formation shales and siltstones. Existing mapping at the time of the T/23P application indicated that the only closures at this level in T/23P had been drilled by Dondu-1 and Yurongi-1 (Fig. 2) and that there was little further potential. Secondary objectives include intra-Eastern View Group sand/shale pairs. The Mid *M. diversus* Unconformity needed to be mapped to determine the potential for intra-Eastern View Group structures.

The application for Permit T/23P was based on several conceptual plays but without any recognised prospects. The principal concept behind the application was the continuation into the permit of the Bass High (Figs. 2, 4). Bass-2 was drilled in 1966 on this major high and reached its total depth in a sequence of volcanics, shales and siltstones which were, at the time of drilling, thought to directly overlie economic basement. Apart from minor shows in the Demons Bluff Formation, Bass-2 did not intersect any hydrocarbons. Palynological review of a sample from the base of Bass-2 (Macphail, 1987) indicated the section was likely to be Paleocene age and not economic basement. On this basis the possibility of Lower Eastern View Group sediments beneath the total depth of the well was proposed. Seismic across the Bass High appeared to show dipping events beneath the volcanics which were interpreted to be Lower Eastern View Group. Limited gravity modelling supported this concept. An analogy with the Kipper Play in the Gippsland Basin was invoked, whereby, the volcanics seen in the base of Bass-2 may act as a seal for unpenetrated fluvial sandstones of the underlying Lower Eastern View Group. A significant closure beneath Bass-2 was mapped at the time.

Subsequent mapping, incorporating the 1990 Shell seismic, of the Top Volcanics level confirmed the presence of a Firetail Prospect closure in T/14P, albeit smaller and more complex than previously mapped. However, the character of the section beneath the volcanics on the new seismic data lacked coherent reflections and was interpreted to be basement. A thin Middle Eastern View Group was interpreted to lie directly on basement and it was concluded that there was no prospective section beneath the total depth of Bass-2. It was therefore recommended that the farmin opportunity be declined. Similarly, the play has no potential in T/23P.

The second, more speculative, play proposed in T/23P was the alluvial fan play associated with the Thornbill Lead. Seismic line TQH-99 appears to have basinward dipping bright reflections on the downthrown side of the Bass High bounding fault which were thought to represent alluvial fan deposits. A speculative downthrown fault trap was recognised to the east of this line. The seismic acquired in T/23P in 1990 was also designed to evaluate this lead.

#### 4. SEISMIC INTERPRETATION

The seismic interpretation of T/23P was completed in early 1992. An earlier interpretation in T/14P was extended to include all of the 1990 Shell data (BS90A) and 1985 Amoco data (TQH) in T/23P. The Landmark Interpretation Workstation was used for fault correlation.

##### 4.1 Seismic Data

The 700 km BS90A survey was acquired over T/23P and T/14P by the HGS vessel, M.V. Pacific Titan, using a 35.7 litre airgun array and a 3750m, 300 channel, digital streamer (Fig. 5, Encl. 1). The shotpoint interval was 25m, with a group interval of 12.5m, producing 75 fold coverage. Processing of this data was performed by Digicon and included KF filtering, signature deconvolution, multiple suppression via the Hampson-Russel parabolic transform technique, DMO and Kirchoff Migration. In order to tie with the existing data, the 1990 data was displayed at 3.75 inches/sec and zero phase, SEG reverse polarity. The BS90A data was acquired perpendicular to the structural grain of the Bass-2 High (30° to the TQH data). The average dip line spacing of the Shell data is 1.25 km, whilst for the TQH data, it is 3 km.

##### 4.2 Correlation

The well - seismic ties used in this interpretation included wells from across the entire Bass Basin (SDA 959). In T/23P, five horizons were correlated (Encl. 2, 3). Two intra-Torquay Group events which correspond with significant lithology related velocity changes were mapped, along with the Top Demons Bluff Formation (strong white loop) and Top Eastern View Group (strong, laterally consistent, black loop). The Mid M. diversus Unconformity, which has subtle angularity on the Bass High, is normally a strong black loop. It marks the base of the reflective Upper Eastern View Group package. Basinward from the Bass High a more complete Eastern View Group section is present and hence this event becomes conformable.

A fault bound ramp is mapped plunging southwards from the Bass High. On this ramp is the 'Deep Pink Event', an unconformity which was mapped as part of the T/14P

evaluation. It corresponds to the proposed objective at the Thornbill Lead, the so-called "top Lower Eastern View Formation" event mapped in SDA 799.

#### 4.3 Depth Conversion

Hand contoured time structure maps were made for all of the horizons interpreted (Encl. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8). Interval velocity fields for each of the major intervals were derived using stacking velocities calibrated against Bass-2, Yurongi-1, Dondu-1 and Nangkero-1. The time structure maps were then depth converted using the calibrated interval velocity fields. There are no steeply dipping velocity interfaces in the shallow section so there is not expected to be any mispositioning due to ray-bending. Depth maps of the Top Eastern View Group and Mid *M. diversus* Unconformity levels are shown in Enclosures 9, 10.

#### 4.4 Structural Interpretation

The T/14P and T/23P region of the Bass Basin is adjacent to the northeastern basin bounding fault (Figs. 2, 4). The structural style of the region is complex. The Bass High is a tilted fault block with an adjacent half graben against the basin bounding fault. To the SW of the Bass High is the Bass Basin Deep. A fault bound terrace plunges southwards from the Bass High which is bound to the east by a major normal fault which throws down to the NE, opposite to the sense of throw on the Bass High faults. A reversed half graben is developed along the hanging wall of this fault (Fig. 2). The transition from SW to NE downthrow on the fault system can be traced from line to line and seems to exclude the existence of a transfer fault in this location, as has been suggested by Etheridge, et al. (1985).

The Landmark Workstation was used to correlate the fault traces from one section to the next. This allowed a greater degree of confidence in the interpreted fault pattern. The structural style of the T/23P area consists of 2 main fault trends; WNW-ESE, subparallel to the Bass High bounding faults, and NNW-SSE, subparallel to the terrace bounding faults. In places, the NNW-SSE fault set appear to displace the other set and hence may be younger. The different trends may be due to slight changes in the direction of the basinal stress regime through time, associated with the movement of Tasmania relative to Australia (Young, et al., 1991).

### 5. PROSPECTIVITY

Neither of the two plays that were the basis for the T/23P application are still considered valid as a result of the current mapping.

The Firetail Prospect does not have a prospective reservoir objective. The previously postulated Lower Eastern View Group at Firetail is now interpreted to be basement (Section 3.). The seismic character of the reflections corresponding to the "alluvial fan sands" of the Thornbill Lead is remarkably similar to that of the Strzelecki Group along the northern margin of the Gippsland Basin. This sequence is believed to be its equivalent i.e. the unprospective Eumeralla Formation of the Otway Group (Encl. 3). Any remaining prospectivity within T/23P, therefore, relies on closures at known reservoir objective levels. Mapping of seismic in T/23P has failed to locate any new structures that can be considered prospective. The Top Eastern View Group and Mid *M. diversus* Unconformity depth maps show that the only closures of any potential have already been drilled (Encl. 9, 10). Both Dondu-1 and Yurongi-1 were drilled within

closure on downthrown fault traps. They were drilled downdip from the culminations, however, the updip potential of each structure is quite small. The lack of hydrocarbons in these wells significantly downgrades the prospectivity of downthrown fault traps in this area. The only new closures mapped in T/23P are downthrown fault traps against the basin bounding fault. This play has an unacceptably high risk of failure due to juxtaposition of downthrown objective sands against probably quite sandy Eastern View Group on the upthrown block, which would severely limit both across-fault and clay smear sealing potential.

Localised mapping of deeper events which have two-way rollover failed to locate any closures.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The conclusion of this study is that no further work should be undertaken in T/23P. There are no drillable Top Eastern View Group or Mid *M. diversus* Unconformity traps, nor were any deeper intra-Eastern View Group structures mapped. The Thornbill Lead no longer exists; its objective is now thought to be unprospective Eumeralla Formation.

On this basis, it is recommended that Shell relinquish T/23P before entering the drilling commitment year on 22nd December 1992. The permit would be relinquished in good standing with all of the Primary Work Programme commitments fulfilled.

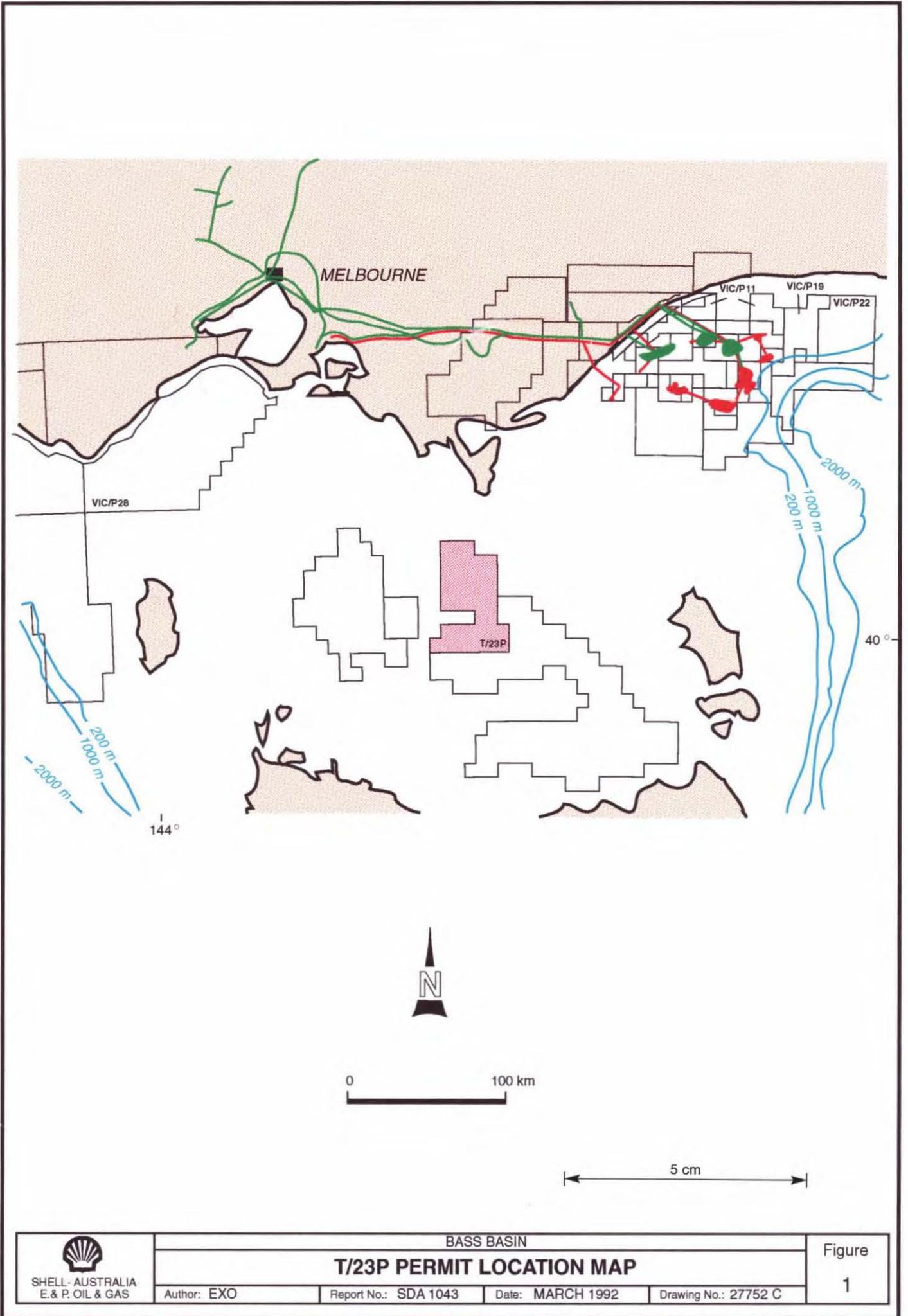
248010

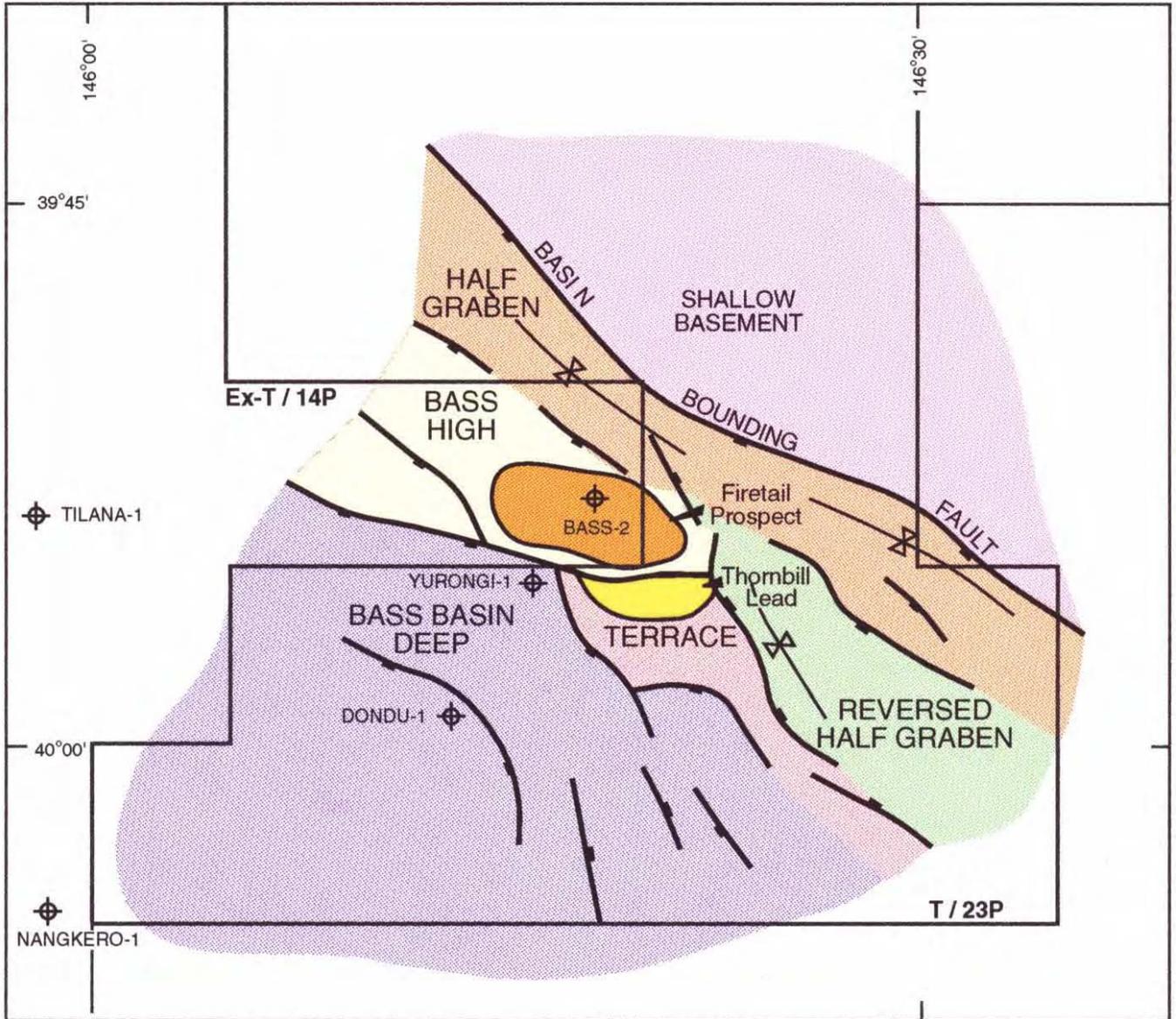
## 7. REFERENCES

Etheridge, M.A., Branson, J.C., Stuart-Smith, P.G., 1985: Extensional Basin-Forming Structures in Bass Strait and their Importance for Hydrocarbon Exploration., *in* The APEA Journal, p. 344-361.

Macphail, M.K., 1987: Palynological Analyses of Cuttings Samples from Near Total Depth, Bass-2, Bass Basin., (R6623).

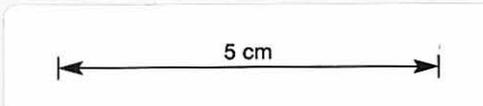
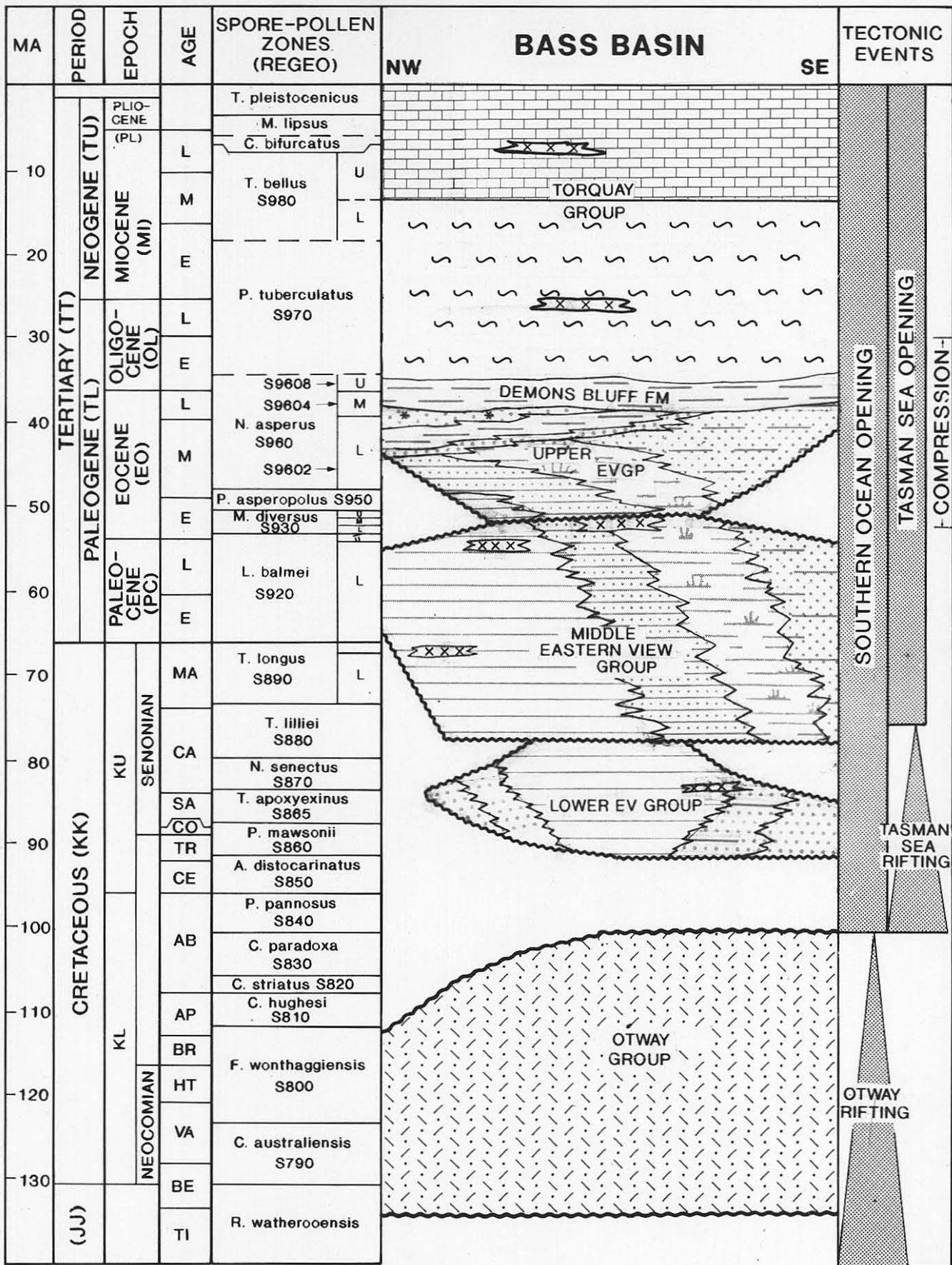
Young, I.M., Trupp, M.A., Gidding, M.J., 1991: Tectonic Evolution of Bass Strait - Origins of Tertiary Evolution., *in* Exploration Geophysics, vol. 22, p. 465-468.





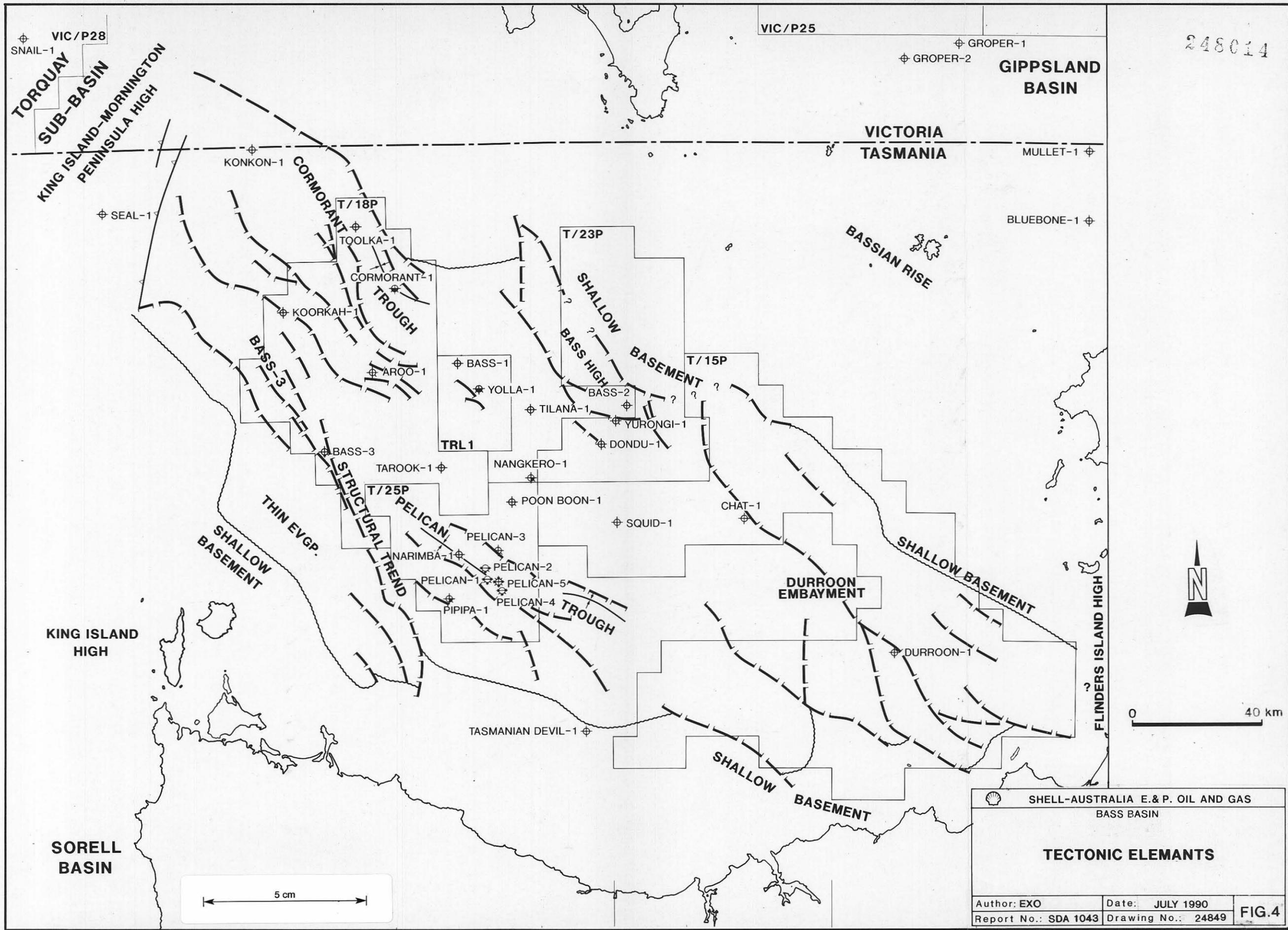
5 cm

 SHELL - AUSTRALIA E. & P. OIL & GAS	BASS BASIN			Figure 2
	<b>T / 23P TECTONIC ELEMENTS</b>			
Author: EXO	Report No.: SDA 1043	Date: MARCH 1992	Drawing No.: 27748 C	

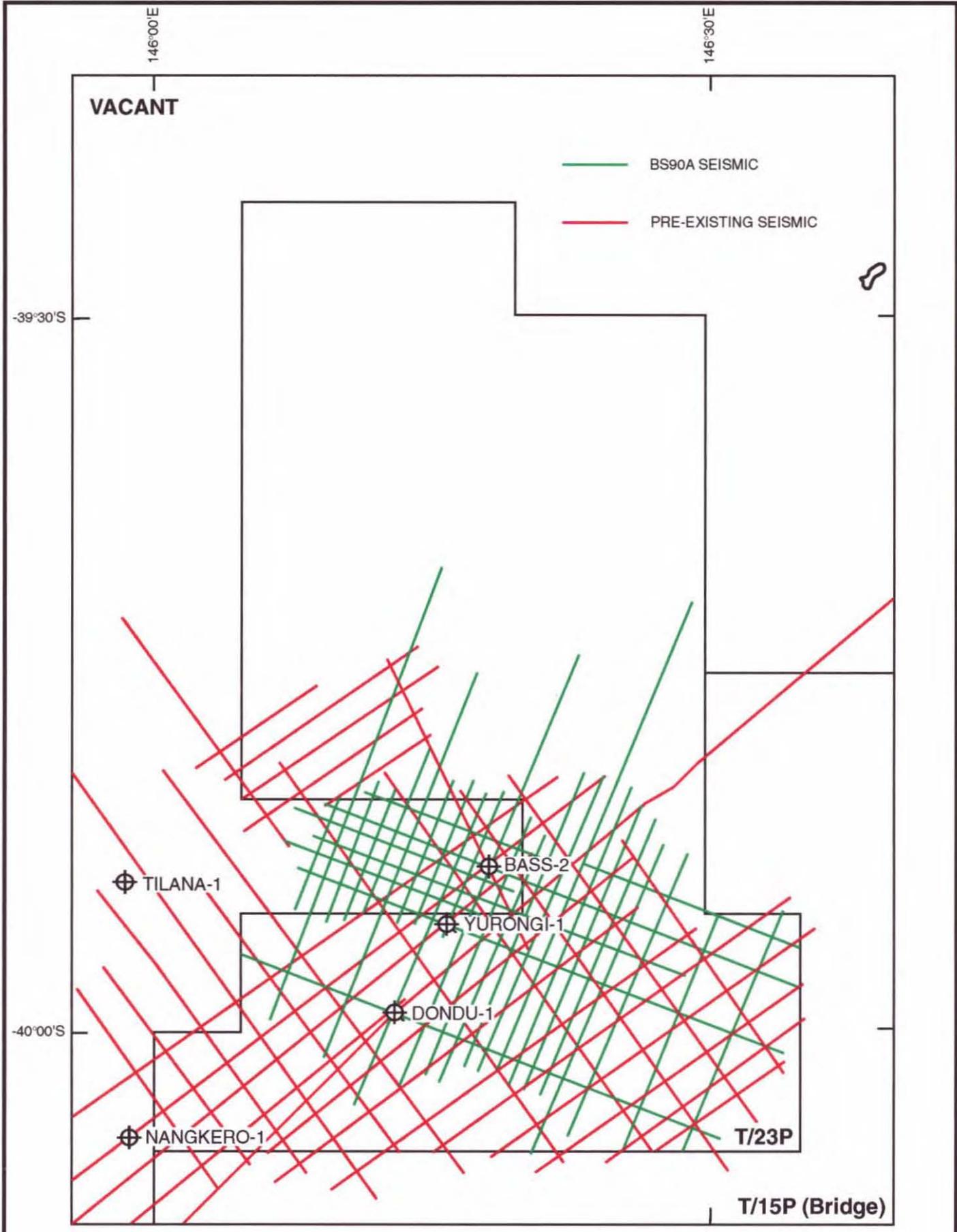


BASEMENT

248014



SHELL-AUSTRALIA E.&P. OIL AND GAS BASS BASIN		
<b>TECTONIC ELEMENTS</b>		
Author: EXO	Date: JULY 1990	<b>FIG.4</b>
Report No.: SDA 1043	Drawing No.: 24849	



BASS BASIN			
<b>T/23P SEISMIC COVERAGE MAP</b>			
Author: EXO	Report No.: SDA 1043	Date: MARCH 1992	Drawing No.: 27749 C

Figure  
5





10  
38483

022.2 DEG

SHELL COMPANY OF AUSTRALIA

LINE : BS90A-33

S P : 1001-2007

AREA : BASS STRAIT

PERMIT : T/14P

MIGRATION  
ZERO PHASE REFLECTIVITY  
TIME SECTION

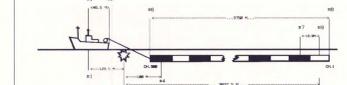
RECORDING PARAMETERS

RECORDED BY : J. H. HIGGS  
DATE : 10 APRIL 1982

RECORDING INSTRUMENTS  
SEISMOGRAM : 2400  
PAPER : 1000

NO. OF STATIONS : 24  
NO. OF TRACES : 24

GROUP INTERVAL : 100 M.



PROCESSING SEQUENCE

- (1) TRANSCRIPTION
- (2) RESAMPLE
- (3) STATIC CORRECTION
- (4) EDIT
- (5) VELOCITY FILTER
- (6) 2x1 EQUICENT TRACE SUB
- (7) SPHERICAL DIVERGENCE CORRECTION
- (8) SIGNATURE DECONVOLUTION
- (9) PRE-STACK TRACE EQUALIZATION
- (10) C.D.P. GATHER
- (11) VELOCITY ANALYSIS
- (12) MULTIPLE SUPPRESSION
- (13) DIP MOVEMENT COMPENSATION
- (14) GAIN CORRECTION
- (15) VELOCITY ANALYSIS
- (16) N.M.O. CORRECTION
- (17) DECONVOLUTION
- (18) PRE-STACK TRACE MUTES
- (19) COMMON DEPTH POINT STACK
- (20) BANDPASS FILTER
- (21) MIGRATION

DISPLAY PARAMETERS

TRACE EQUALIZATION

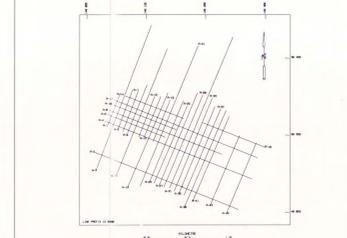
GATE TIME (MSEC.)

1000 1500 2000 2500 3000 3500 4000

HORIZONTAL SCALE : 50.0 T.P.I. (1:25,000)

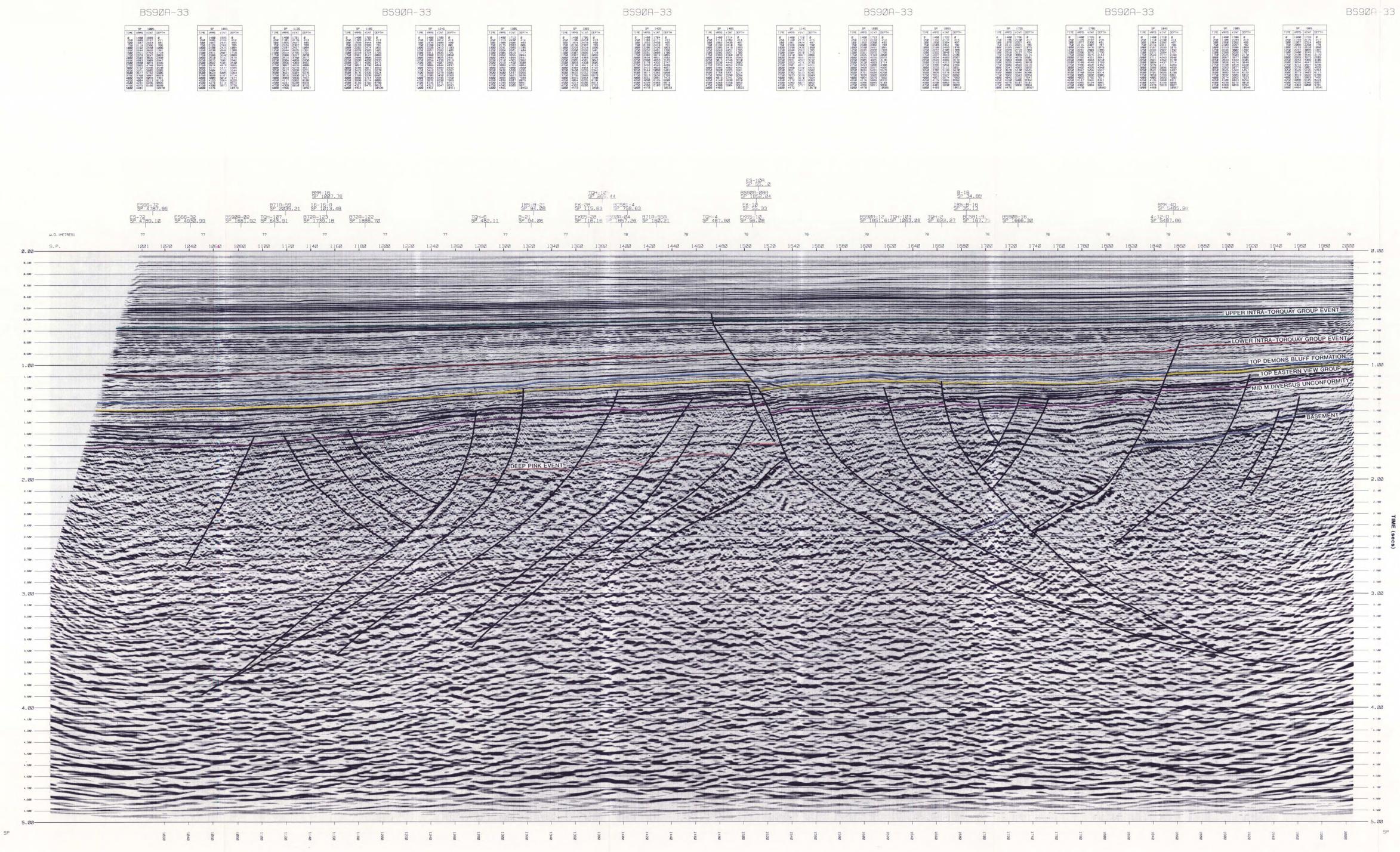
VERTICAL SCALE : 3.75 IN./SEC.

POLARITY



PROCESSED BY : DIGITAL EXPLORATION LTD.  
DIGICON, BRISBANE

PROCESSOR : CR HIGGS  
DATE : 10 APRIL 1982



VERTICAL SCALE 3.75"/SEC  
HORIZONTAL SCALE 1:25000

FOR LOCATION SEE ENCL 1

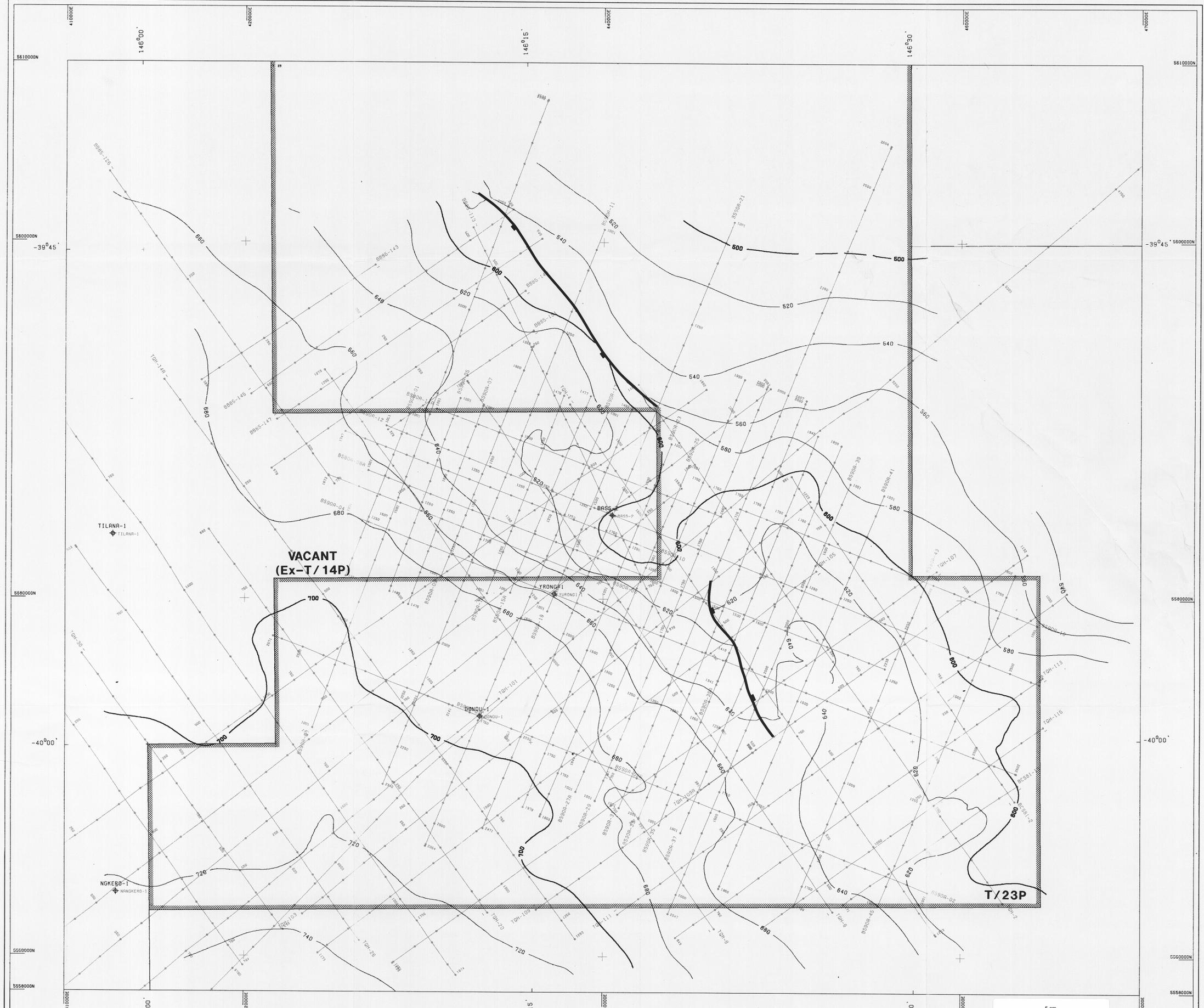
SHELL-AUSTRALIA E. & P. OIL AND GAS

BASS BASIN 248018

INTERPRETED SEISMIC

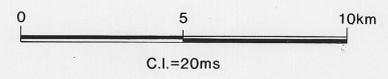
LINE BS90A-33

Author: EMO Date: APRIL 1982  
Report No.: SDA 1043 Drawing No.: 27788 Encl. 3



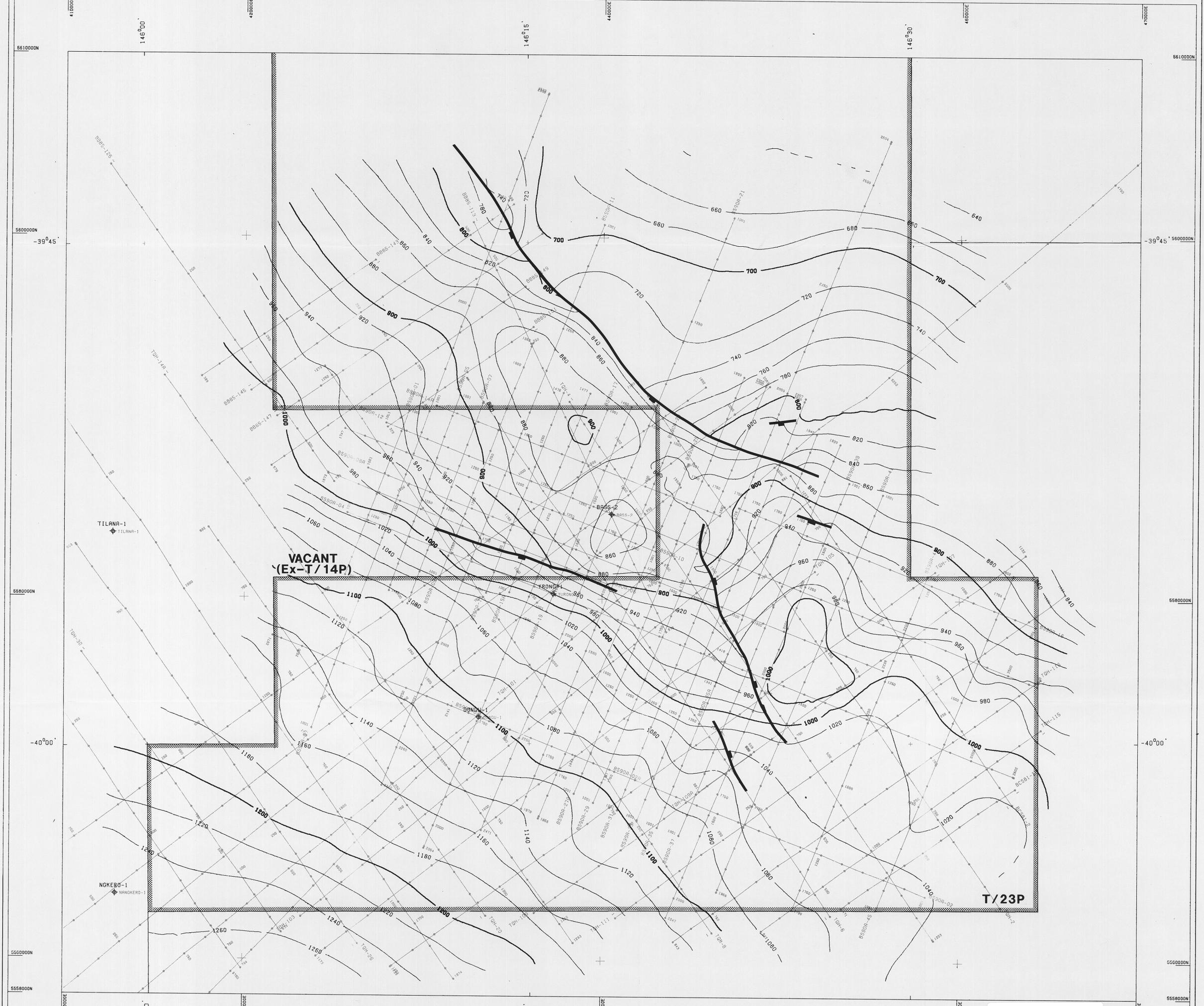
VACANT  
(Ex-T/14P)

T/23P



SHELL-AUSTRALIA E. & P. OIL AND GAS		
BASS BASIN		
		248019
<b>UPPER INTRA-TORQUAY GROUP EVENT</b> <b>TIME STRUCTURE MAP</b>		
Author : EXO	Date : MARCH 1992	Encl. 4
Report No. : SDA 1043	Drawing No. : 27754	

TR OR-0287

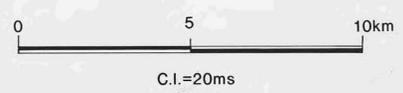
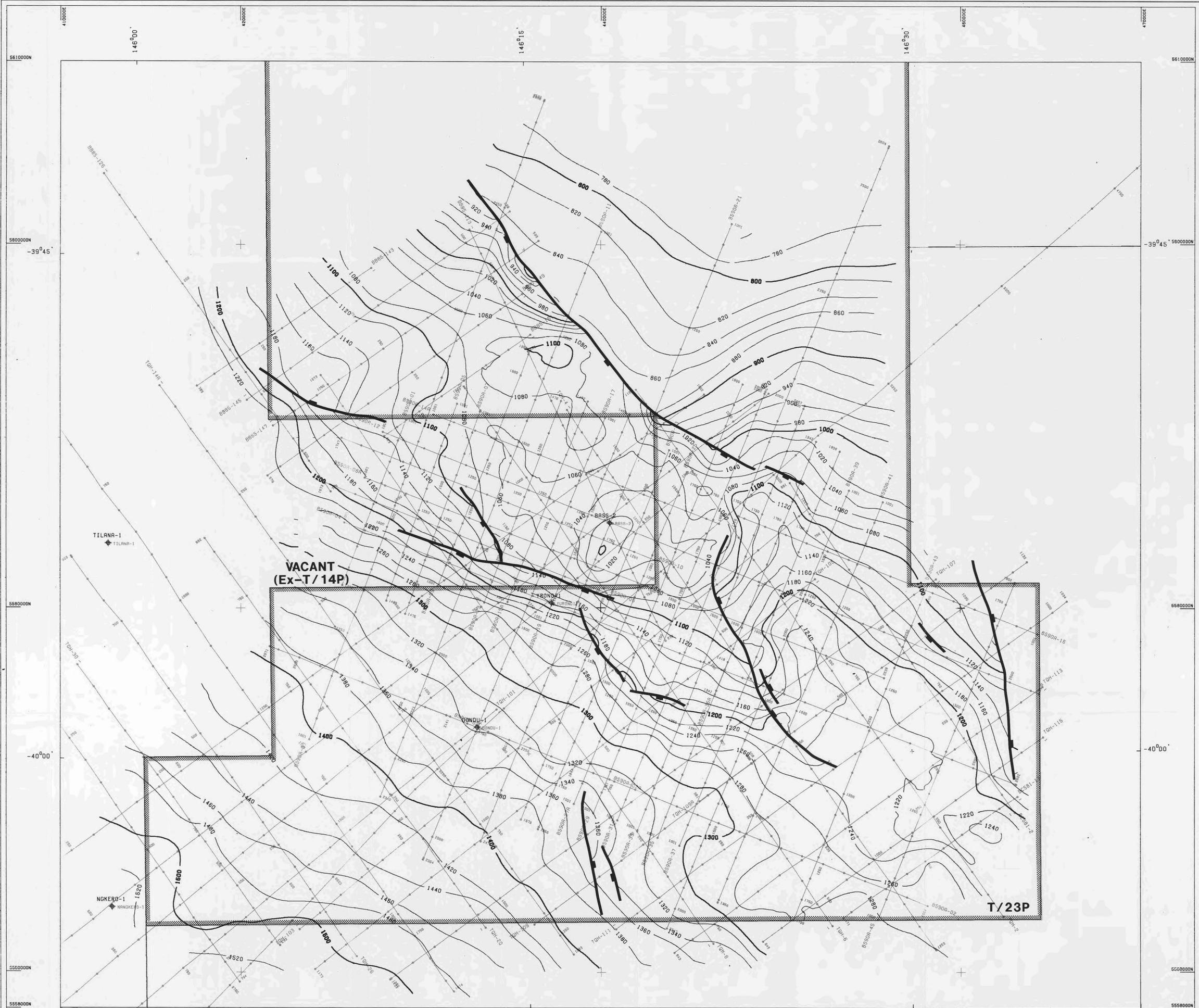


5 cm

0 5 10km  
C.I.=20ms

<b>SHELL-AUSTRALIA E. &amp; P. OIL AND GAS</b> BASS BASIN		
248020		
<b>LOWER INTRA-TORQUAY GROUP EVENT</b>		
<b>TIME STRUCTURE MAP</b>		
Author : EXO	Date : MARCH 1992	<b>Encl. 5</b>
Report No. : SDA 1043	Drawing No. : 27753	

TPR OR-0247

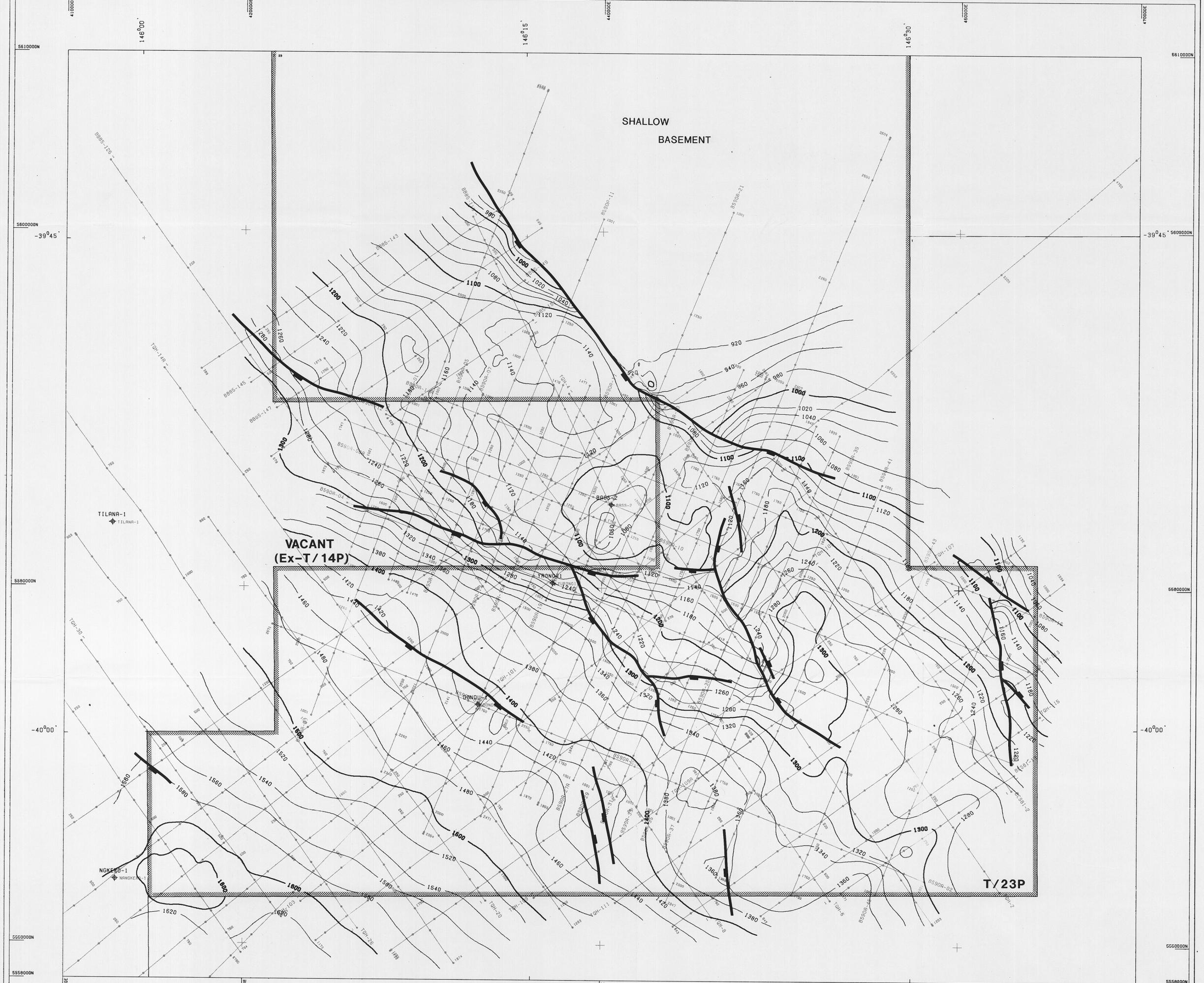


5 cm

SHELL-AUSTRALIA E.&P. OIL AND GAS  
 BASS BASIN  
**TOP DEMONS BLUFF FORMATION**  
**TIME STRUCTURE MAP**  
 248021

Author : EXO	Date : MARCH 1992
Report No. : SDA 1043	Drawing No. : 27755
<b>Encl.6</b>	

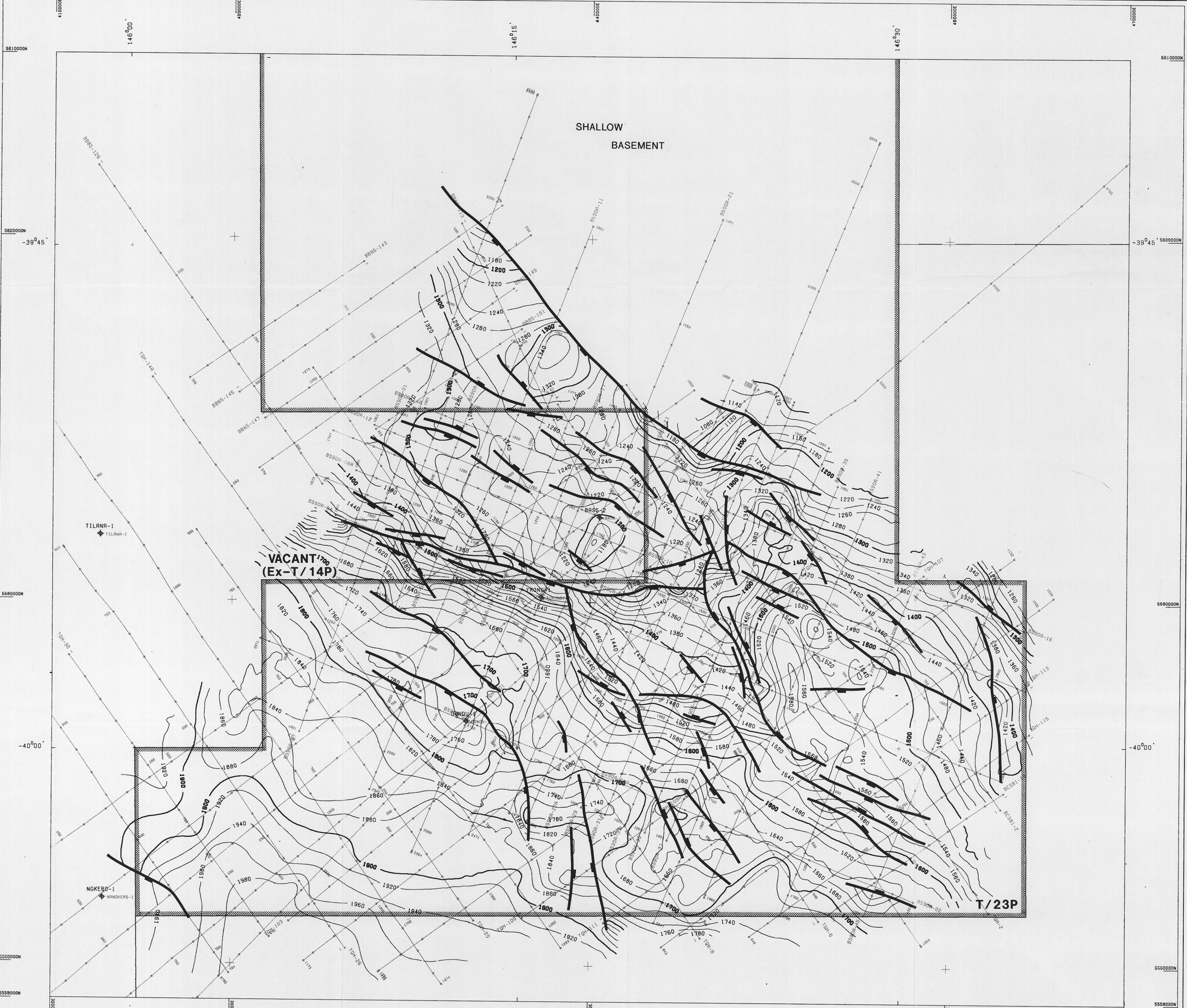
TAR OR-0247



**SHELL-AUSTRALIA E. & P. OIL AND GAS**  
 BASS BASIN  
**TOP EASTERN VIEW GROUP**  
**TIME STRUCTURE MAP**  
 248022

Author : EXO	Date : MARCH 1992
Report No. : SDA 1043	Drawing No. : 27751
<b>Encl. 7</b>	

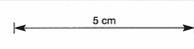
TRR OK-0247



SHALLOW  
BASEMENT

VACANT  
(Ex-T/14P)

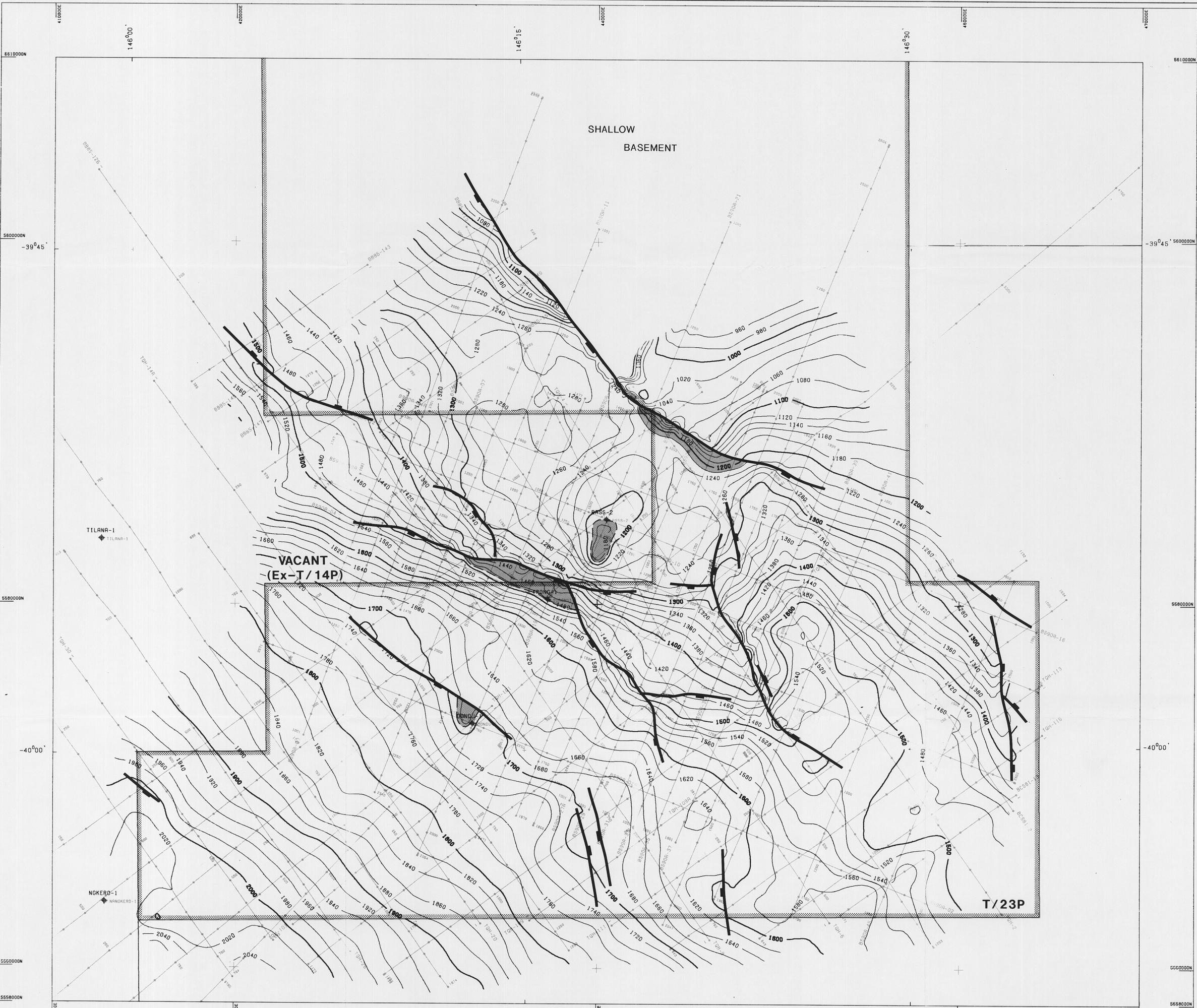
T/23P



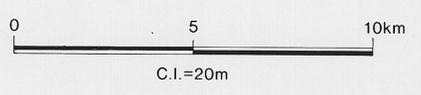
C.I.=20ms


**SHELL-AUSTRALIA E. & P. OIL AND GAS**  
 BASS BASIN  
**MID M. DIVERSUS UNCONFORMITY**  
**TIME STRUCTURE MAP**  
 248023  
 Author : EXO      Date : MARCH 1992  
 Report No. : SDA 1043      Drawing No. : 27757      Encl. 8

TRR OR. 0247



■ Untested Potential



SHELL-AUSTRALIA E. & P. OIL AND GAS BASS BASIN		
<b>TOP EASTERN VIEW GROUP</b> <b>DEPTH STRUCTURE MAP</b>		
248024		
Author : EXO	Date : MARCH 1992	Encl. 9
Report No. : SDA 1043	Drawing No. : 27756	

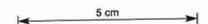
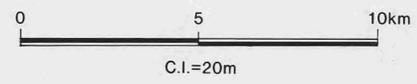
TRR OR. 0247

SHALLOW  
BASEMENT

VACANT  
(Ex-T/14P)

T/23P

■ Untested Potential



SHELL-AUSTRALIA E.& P. OIL AND GAS  
BASS BASIN

**MID M. DIVERSUS UNCONFORMITY**  
**DEPTH STRUCTURE MAP**  
248025

Author : EXO	Date : MARCH 1992	Encl.10
Report No. : SDA 1043	Drawing No. : 27750	

TPR 02-0247